

Remarks

Claims 1-23 and 41-45 were presented for examination. Claims 1, 5, 8-11, 16-18, 20 and 22-23 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 7,319,537 to Kikuchi ("Kikuchi") in view of U.S. Patent Publication Number 2003/0014368 to Leurig ("Leurig") and in further view of U.S. Patent Number 7,496,234 to Li ("Li"). Claim 2 is rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kikuchi in view of Leurig in view of Li and in further view of U.S. Patent Number 6,654,784 to Wei ("Wei"). Claims 3, 4 and 19 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kikuchi in view of Leurig in view of Li and in further view of Admitted Prior Art ("APA"). Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kikuchi in view of Leurig in view of Li and in further view of U.S. Patent Number 7,095,905 to Peterson ("Peterson"). Claims 12-15 and 21 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kikuchi in view of Leurig in view of Li and in further view of U.S. Patent Number 5,267,051 to Dellert ("Dellert"). Claims 41-45 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kikuchi in view of Leurig in view of Li and in further view of U.S. Patent Publication Number 2006/0123079 to Sturniolo ("Sturniolo").

Claims 1, 17 and 41 are independent claims. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 11, 16-18, 21, 23, 41 and 44-45 were amended. Claims 3, 19-20, and 42 were canceled. No new matter was added. No claims were added.

On August 4, 2009, the Examiner finally rejected claims 1-23 and 41-45. In response, on November 4, 2009, the Applicant submitted a Notice of Appeal accompanied by a Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review. The Examiner contacted Applicant's attorneys on November 17, 2009, and conducted a series of telephone conferences between November 17 and November 24, 2009, in which the pending claims were discussed. Applicant's attorneys thank the Examiner for the opportunity to discuss this application. At the Examiner's request, Applicant submits the amendments listed above. Applicant respectfully urges the Examiner to pass the claims to allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Please charge any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayments, to our Deposit Account No. 03-1721.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: November 24, 2009

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